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The First Record of *Holothuria lentiginosa enodis*, Miller and Pawson (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

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Short Papers and Notes:

THE FIRST RECORD OF *Holothuria lentiginosa enodis*, MILLER AND PAWSON (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea) IN THE NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO

Few reports have dealt with the holothurians of the northern Gulf of Mexico in the past forty years (Deichmann, 1946; 1954; Pawson and Miller, 1981). Deichmann (1954) reported 66 species of sea cucumbers from the Gulf of Mexico and Pawson and Miller (1981) described two new species of the genus *Thyone* from the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

We report here the first record of the aspidochirote holothurian, *Holothuria lentiginosa enodis* Miller and Pawson, 1978, from the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Holothuria lentiginosa* Marenzeller, 1893, has an amphi-Atlantic distribution with the subspecies *H. l. enodis* recorded from the east coast of Florida, Cuba, and the Florida Straits (Miller and Pawson, 1978). Our record extends the known geographic range of the subspecies approximately 750 km.

The material examined consists of a single specimen collected by Dr. Robert L. Shipp (University of South Alabama) from the northern rim of the DeSoto Canyon. The specimen was obtained by Otter trawl at 30°05'N, 86°55'W on November 18, 1975. The substrate was sandy-silt with shell hash and coralline rubble. Identification of the specimen was verified by Dr. Thomas C. Shirley (University of Alaska).

Due to the initial preservation in 10% formalin, the specimen is tightly contracted; it is approximately 17 cm. in length and 9 cm. in diameter. In 70% isopropyl alcohol the specimen had brown blotches on a pale cream

background. Ossicles are smooth buttons, tables, and perforated rods. These are in good agreement with ossicles described for the subspecies by Miller and Pawson (1978).

Dissection of the intestine yielded an adult pearlfish, *Carapus bermudensis* (Jones). The relationship between this pearlfish and holothurians has been well documented in the western Atlantic by other authors (Dawson, 1971; Smith and Tyler, 1969; Miller and Pawson, 1978; Smith *et al.*, 1981).

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